

Kever Clark

“This has been an awesome opportunity serving with so many different personalities. This was such a harmonious group. Looking for the truth in all the right places gave the instant feeling that we were doing what was right and just. Thank all of you for serving so well.”

Kenneth L. Davis

“Over one hundred years after the racial violence and coup of 1898 some people still promote yesterday's deceptions as today and tomorrow's history. The future they want most to control is the continued distortion of African American contributions to Wilmington and the nation. They want to continue the myth that the cause of the racial violence that took place in Wilmington on Thursday, November 10, 1898, was caused by a corrupt government made of in large part by Negroes.

This report accurately records facts that many, over the years, were eager to obscure. The 1890's were a time when the Democratic Party, primarily made up of former confederates, were bitter because they had lost the Civil War and had been subjected to harsh occupation by Union forces during Reconstruction. They wanted to return to the master slave relationship and invoke the failed doctrine of white supremacy. What happened in November of 1898 was a breakdown in the rule of law. Alfred Moore Waddell and the leaders that orchestrated the violence should be recorded in history for what they really were, felons! The wanton destruction of property and the indiscriminant murder of innocent people cannot be justified even in the historical context of 1898.

Documenting the events of 1898 have been contentious and emotional but we had a moral obligation to correct an egregious wrong that has gone on too long without being remedied. The names of Thomas C. Miller, Alexander Manly, Arie Bryant, Robert B. Pickens, Salem J. Bell, Carter Peamon and others banished from Wilmington including those Negroes killed or wounded John Townsend, Charles Lindsey, Josh Halsey, Daniel Wright, John R. Davis, Samuel McFarland, William Lindsey, Alfred White, George Davis, George Henry Davis, George Miller, John Dow and according to the November 12, 1898 edition of The Evening Dispatch “a number killed not accounted for and who will never be accounted for.” should be recognized not as rioters or criminals but as victims of an illegal racist regime.

The injustices of 1898 were more than an attack on unarmed Negroes, the silencing of the Black press and the removal of an allegedly corrupt city government; it was an attack on the constitution, the fabric that binds this nation together. We must remove the diabolical stain of racism from the fabric of freedom and democracy that still exist in Wilmington today. It exists in the gentrification of black communities, it exists in the attempt to re-segregate schools, it exists in hiring and promotions practices in the public and private sector and it exists in the distorted historical facts of the events of 1898.”